

Remarks / Arguments:**Opening Remarks:**

Applicants and Applicants' representative appreciate the time and courtesy extended by the Examiner during the Examiner Interview conducted by telephone on October 20, 2008. The Examiner Interview was attended by Brett J. Rosen (Patent Agent, Reg. No. 56,047) and Examiner Timothy Collins. It is the Applicants understanding from the Examiners Interview that claims 69-72 are allowable in their current form over the cited art.

Claim Status:

Claims 1-6, 8-18, 20-43 and 69-72 are pending in this application. The features of claim 7 have been included in amended claim 1. The features of claim 19 have been included in amended claim 13. Claims 7 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b):

Claims 1-43 and 69-72 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tully (U.S. Patent No. 2,600,706). It is Applicants understanding that claims 69-72 are allowable in their current form as stated above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-6, 8-18 and 20-43 and respectfully submit that those claims are patentable over Tully for the reasons set forth below.

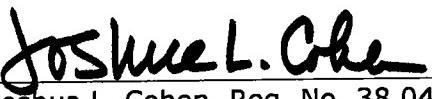
The features of claim 7 have been incorporated into independent claim 1. Tully does not disclose or suggest a "forward bed extension surface, which forward bed extension surface is positioned or deployable to be positioned forwardly of the seat in said seat configuration," as recited in amended claim 1. Reconsideration of claim 1 and the rejected claims that depend from claim 1 is respectfully requested.

The features of claim 19 have been incorporated into independent claim 13. Tully does not disclose or suggest that "one or more forward auxiliary accommodation elements are positioned or deployable to be positioned forwardly of the seat," as recited in amended claim 13. Reconsideration of claim 13 and the rejected claims that depend from claim 13 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments in the claims and the remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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